

REMARKS

The Examiner has asserted that claims 17, 21 and 28 have some informalities. Applicants have corrected claim 17 as suggested by the Examiner, but disagree with respect to claims 21 and 28.

With respect to claims 21 and 28, the Examiner states that these claims "do not indicate that the method for conducting speech therapy is a computer implemented method or system (as the specification teaches)." Applicants respectfully point out to the Examiner that it is not the function of the claims to teach how to practice the invention – but, under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, to point out and distinctly claim "the subject matter *which applicant regards as his invention*" (emphasis added). As such, applicants are not required to make these requested changes.

Claims 1 – 8 and 10 – 33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,562,453 issued October 8, 1996 to Wen (the Wen reference) in view of JP 409122106A published May 13, 1997 by Nojima (the Nojima reference) and U.S. Patent No. 5,357,596 issued October 18, 1994 to Takebayashi et al. (the Takebayashi reference). Applicants respectfully disagree for any one of a number of reasons and will use applicants' claim 1 as an illustration.

First, **none** of the references describe, or suggest, singly or in combination, applicants' claimed requirement of "generating a prompt to use each of the plurality of aspects in a sentence if the user-identification of each of the plurality of aspects accurately describes the plurality of aspects" (claim 1, lines 14 – 16). Applicants respectfully note that the Examiner *has not pointed to any of the references as fulfilling this requirement*.

Second, the Examiner states that the Wen reference describes applicants' claimed "generating a speech prompt." Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner is wrong – this is not what applicants' claim. Applicants' claim 1 requires "generating speech prompts for information describing each of the plurality of aspects of the picture" (claim 1, lines 4 – 5, emphasis added). The Wen reference does not describe, or suggest, such a requirement. The Wen

reference only describes showing a picture having one aspect, e.g., a tiger (e.g., see Wen, col. 4, lines 4 – 6).

Third, the Examiner states that the Nojima reference "prompts the user to provide a description of the contents of the picture." Applicants' representative can not find such a description in the Nojima reference and would appreciate the Examiner providing a specific citation to this description in the Nojima reference. At best, the Nojima reference states that when "a cartoon is presented for a checker," the contents of the cartoon are "explained" by the checker, and the explanation is "written or recorded for each frame of the cartoon." As such, there is no description, or suggestion, in the Nojima reference of prompting "the user to provide a description of the contents of the picture" as stated by the Examiner.

Fourth, even if the Nojima reference did contain such a description as *characterized by the Examiner* – the Examiner's characterization of "prompts the user to provide a description of the contents of the picture" is not the same as the requirement of applicants' claim 1. In particular, applicants' claim 1 requires "generating speech prompts for information describing each of the plurality of aspects of the picture." Applicants respectfully request the Examiner point to that portion of the Nojima reference describing such speech prompts for each of the plurality of aspects of the cartoon.

Fifth, the Examiner states that the Nojima reference describes applicants' claimed "user identification of a plurality of aspects." Again, *this is not what applicants' claim 1 requires*. Applicants claim 1 requires "user identification of each of the plurality of aspects" for which there was a generated speech prompt (claim 1, lines 4 – 5, 6 – 7). While the Nojima reference may present a cartoon having a plurality of aspects – applicants' representative can not find in the Nojima reference any description or suggestion for any prompting for each of the plurality of aspects and, consequently, no user identification of each of the plurality of aspects for which there was a prompt.

Sixth, the Examiner's stated purpose for modifying the Wen reference with the Nojima reference is without merit. The Examiner states that one would modify the Wen reference to implement the plurality of aspects in a display as taught by the Nojima reference "for the purpose of expanding the testing procedures

available for the system." But that begs the question – why ? Nowhere does either the Wen reference or the Nojima reference state, or suggest, any need to expand the testing procedures.

Seventh, even if, for the sake of argument, one would modify the Wen reference with various aspects of the devices as taught by the Nojima reference and the Takebayashi reference as stated by the Examiner – this still does not yield applicants' claimed invention. In particular, the Examiner states that one skilled in the art would modify the Wen reference to implement a speech dialogue system as described in the Takebayashi reference. At best, the Wen reference then performs natural language analysis – but applicants' claimed invention *requires more*. For example, none of the references describe, or suggest, the use of natural language analysis to "determine whether the user-identification of each of the plurality of aspects accurately describes the plurality of aspects" (claim 1, lines 11 – 13).

Similar comments exist with respect to applicants' independent claims 12 and 21 (e.g., see claim 12, lines 13 – 14, 15 – 16, 20 – 22 and 24 – 26; claim 21, lines 3 – 4, 5 – 6, 10 – 12, 13 – 15 and 16 – 17).

With respect to applicants' independent claim 28, none of the references either singly, or in combination, meet the requirements of this claim. For example, applicants' claim 28 requires displaying a picture having a plurality of aspects; receiving a spoken description for each aspect; and generating a prompt for the user to use a sentence comprising each of the plurality of aspects of the picture if each of the plurality of aspects was correctly described beforehand (e.g., see claim 28, lines 2 – 5, 10 – 16). In simple fact, none of the references describe or suggest, either singly or in combination, a system that requires receiving a spoken description for each of the plurality of aspects of a picture. In addition, none of the references describe or suggest, either singly or in combination, generating a prompt for a sentence as claimed by applicants.

Applicants respectfully submit that distinguishing comments can also be made with respect to the dependent claims.

Consider applicants' dependent claims 6, 7, 8, 17, 18 and 19. For these claims, the Examiner states that the Wen reference describes altering a visual characteristic. However, this does not meet the requirements of applicants'

claims 6, 7, 8, 17, 18 and 19 as asserted by the Examiner. For example, applicants' claim 6 requires that the step of performing natural language analysis "includes altering a visual characteristic of at least one of the aspects of the picture in response to the input speech response" (emphasis added). Nowhere, does the Wen reference describe or suggest such a step. Further, even if, for the sake of argument, the Wen reference was modified to include natural language analysis as the Examiner asserts – none of the references, either singly, or in combination, describe or suggest the claimed requirement that the step of performing natural language analysis "includes altering a visual characteristic of at least one of the aspects of the picture in response to the input speech response." Similar distinguishing requirements exist for applicants' claims 7, 8, 17, 18 and 19.

Also, applicants respectfully note that dependent claim 11 requires that "the step of generating a speech prompt includes providing an auditory cue for one of a verb and a preposition to the user that is activated by interacting with an icon." Applicants request a citation to a particular part of the Wen reference.

In addition, applicants respectfully note that the Examiner has not substantively addressed the requirements of applicants' claims 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27. As such, applicants respectfully traverse.

As a result of the above, applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 12, 21 and 28 are patentable over the Wen reference in view of the Nojima reference and the Takebayashi reference. Consequently, the rejections of dependent claims 2 – 8, 10, 11, 13 – 20, 22 – 27 and 29 – 33 have also been overcome.

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Wen reference in view of the Nojima reference and the Takebayashi reference and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,487,671 issued January 30, 1996 to Shpiro et al. Applicants respectfully disagree for the reasons cited above with respect to independent claim 1 from which claim 9 depends.

Every other reference cited by the Examiner has been studied and none of these references, considered singly or in combinations, anticipated any of the claims now in the application

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Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all remaining claims are now in condition for allowance and reconsideration is requested. If the Examiner believes that prosecution would be expedited by direct discussion, a telephone call to the undersigned would be welcomed.

Dated: August 22, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

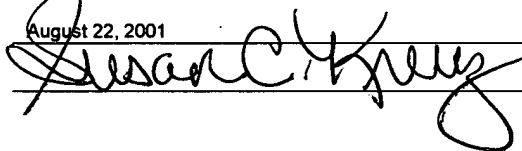

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August 22, 2001





VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

17. (Twice Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the processor is programmed to perform natural language analysis including altering a visual characteristic of at least one of the aspects in response to the input speech response.